

French Advance Further Into Alsace; Allies Win More Ground in Belgium Eight Hungarian Townships Occupied by Russians—Germans Continue Advance Towards Warsaw

The German defenders of Alsace are still losing ground before the French advance. Today's official statements from Berlin as well as from Paris speak of fighting to the east of Steinbach, showing that the French have pushed beyond this recently captured village. The Paris announcement gives the first intimation of another French advance into Alsace near Orberg fourteen miles west of Colmar, capital of upper Alsace.

Infantry fighting has been resumed in Belgium and the French report states that ground was won by the allies near Neuport. Elsewhere military activity is chiefly in the way of artillery duels.

Few further particulars were received concerning the eastern campaign. The Berlin war office states that the advance east of Bolimow, in the direction of Warsaw, is being continued, although Petrograd claims that the Germans, after capturing Russian positions at Bolimow, were compelled to abandon them.

The war spirit in Italy has been revived by the death of a French battlefield of a grandson of Garibaldi. Italy will have about 1,000,000 men under arms by the end of this month, and a reserve of another million is being formed. Secret committees are being formed for the enlistment of volunteers.

The plan for certification of American cargoes before they leave American ports decided upon in Washington yesterday has been communicated to the British government. It is expected in London to assist materially in solving the difficulties created by the British interference with American shipping.

Further Russian successes in operations against the Austrians are described in unofficial despatches from Petrograd. According to these advices, the Russian troops which were said several days ago to have penetrated the passes of the Carpathian mountains and begun an invasion of Hungary in force, have captured eight Hungarian towns and surrounded several divisions of Austrian troops in the mountains. There was no official confirmation of these statements, however, and the latest official announcement from Vienna asserts that the Austrian forces in Galicia have captured strong positions and are preparing for further operations.

French Less Than Thirty Miles from Rhine River

London, Jan. 5, 12:30 P. M.—The right wing of the French army is today less than thirty miles from the river Rhine, holding the Alsatian village of Steinbach and the heights to the southeast of the village after one of the most stubborn localized fights of the war. At no other point of the western front has there been any noteworthy change; the news, consequently dwells chiefly today on the bad weather conditions.

In Poland there has been little shift in the relative positions of the invading and defending armies. The Germans continue to deliver their furious and intermittent attacks on the Bzura-Rawka line. To the south the Russians have swept forward to Susewka, near the Rumanian frontier. In the Caucasus the Turkish invaders and the Russians are apparently still fighting out their battle in the region of Sari Kamysb, both sides claiming a victory.

The French progress in upper Alsace is probably the most significant news from the western front in several weeks, and by some observers here it is taken to indicate future attempts on the part of the allies to break through in this region, maintaining meanwhile a base on Belfort. For the moment the swampy condition of the ground in West Flanders precludes a general advance movement in this locality. Furthermore, General Joffre's feeling tactics at other points have resulted in no great gains, and it consequently would not be a surprise if the heaviest fighting during the next fortnight centered on the eastern slopes of the Vosges mountains. It is down these hills that the French Alpine chassateurs, backed by the famous seventy-five millimetre guns, swept to victory yesterday at Steinbach after some of the most sanguinary fighting of the campaign.

Only a little further advance to the southeast, will give the allies possession of the village of Cernay. They now hold the heights to the west of this town, and its fall would throw open the way to Muelhausen.

Whether the Turks are exaggerating their successes or not, they are doing some hard fighting in the Caucasus, judging from despatches reaching London. Even telegrams from Petrograd admit that this situation is becoming one of first rate importance. There is no sign as yet, however, of Russia's moving troops from her western to her southern frontier.

Allies Gain Further Ground in Belgium

Paris, Jan. 5, 2:51 p. m.—The French official statement given out today by the war office this afternoon conveys the first intimation of another French advance into Alsace, at a point near Orberg, or Urbels, which is some fourteen miles to the west of Colmar. It sets forth also that the French advances in the direction of Cernay (Sennheim) to the southeast of Steinbach, have been maintained. There are six points on the battlefield where engagements have taken place, and the Belgian artillery is described as active in Flanders. Advances near St. Georges also are claimed. The text of the communication follows:

"In Belgium in spite of the condition of the ground and the difficulties which result, our infantry made progress in the sand dunes in front of Neuport. In the region of St. Georges our men advanced, at different places, 200, 300 and 500 yards, occupying houses and some trenches. At several points the Belgian artillery reduced to silence the artillery of the Germans.

"From the Lys to the Oise, in the

region of Notre Dame De Lorette, to the west of Lens we were successful, thanks to our mortars and our hand grenades, in completely stopping the sapping labor of the enemy. In the vicinity of the Lille highway the Germans blew up one of our trenches, and then took possession of it, but an immediate counter attack again put us in possession of it.

"From the Oise to the Vosges no infantry activity has been reported. In the region of Craonne and in the vicinity of Rheims there have been artillery engagements. Our batteries effectively bombarded the positions of the enemy in the town of LaSuipe, as well as in the region of Perthes and in the vicinity of Beausejour. There was similar activity in the Argonne and on the Heights of the Meuse.

"In Alsace, to the southeast of the Col (Mount) du Bonhomme we have entered the hamlet of Creux D'Argent, two kilometers west of Ordey, where we are organizing our position. The gains realized by us on the road from Thann to Cernay have been maintained at a distance one kilometer to the east of Old Thann. Furthermore, the fire of our heavy artillery at a point two kilometers east of Purnhaupt-Le-Saut silenced the artillery of the enemy."

Several French Attacks Repulsed by Germans

Berlin, Jan. 5, By Wireless Telegraphy to London, 2:55 P. M.—The German official statement on the progress of military operations given out this afternoon, declares that fighting at a point two miles to the east of Steinbach resulted in the French being repulsed in the Argonne and near Arras. In northern Poland the situation is said to be unchanged, while to the east of the Bzura river the German attacks are progressing. The text of the communication follows:

"In the western arena of the war, at a point north of Arras, we have blown up a French trench 200 yards in length; we also took some prisoners. The counter attack of the enemy at this point failed.

"In the Argonne we repulsed several French advances.

"A French attack between Steinbach and Uffholtz was repulsed after a bayonet encounter.

"Uffholtz is two miles to the east of Steinbach and directly north of Sennheim, Cernay."

"In the eastern theater of the war the situation in East Prussia and in northern Poland remains unchanged. Our attacks east of the Bzura near Kossow-Binskup, and south of this location are progressing. We also advanced at a point northeast of Bolimow. There are no changes east of the Rawka nor east of the Heights to the north of the Rawka.

"On the right bank of the Pilica the condition of the roads and the unfavorable weather are interfering with our movements."

Russians Occupy Eight Hungarian Townships

Paris, Jan. 5, 4:55 a. m.—A Petrograd despatch published in L'Information reports that the Russians have occupied eight Hungarian townships and that several divisions of the Austrian army are surrounded in the Carpathians.

Germans Drop Bombs on British Ammunition Stores

Berlin, Jan. 5, by wireless to London, 9:25 a. m.—Announcement is

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RAILROAD CROSSING NOT WELL PROTECTED

Judge Meskill Discharge P. J. Gagner and Finds Company Negligent.

NO LIGHTS ON NORTH GATE

After Lengthy Trial Philias Gagner Is Absolved of All Blame for Crashing Through Gates at Main Street Crossing.

Because, through the negligence of one of the employees of the New York, New Haven and Hartford railroad company, the north gate on the Main street crossing was not equipped with a signal lantern at 11:30 o'clock on the night of December 28, Philias J. Gagner could not see the lowered gate and thinking that because no light was visible the crossing was clear, he drove his machine onto it, snapping the north gates. Once on the track, with the incoming Bristol train bearing down upon him there was nothing left for him to do but continue on his way. After a long trial in police court this morning Judge James T. Meskill found Gagner not guilty of reckless driving, discharged him, and placed the blame for the entire trouble upon the corporation.

Police Officers Testify.

As Prosecutor Klett was disqualified from conducting the case it was handled in the state by his assistant, Judge George W. Andrew. Officer Axel Carlson saw Gagner and his auto at the corner of Main and East Main streets going at the rate of about twenty miles per hour. The street was devoid of other vehicles at the time. Officer Thomas Dolan testified to seeing Gagner drive into Church street and turn around after hearing the crash. The light and windshield of the auto were broken and Gagner and one of the women in the car were cut about the face and head. Officer William Hayes was another witness. He was with Officer Dolan and gave the same evidence, except that he saw the car going about twenty miles an hour before turning into Church street. He also said there were no cars or autos in the road. Attorney P. F. McDonough, counsel for Gagner, questioned the officer's judgment in estimating the speed of the machine. Testimony given by Gatekeeper H. W. Kilbourne was that the 11:30 dinky was approaching when Gagner's auto crashed through the gates. He thought the car was going at fully fifty miles an hour.

Little Evidence of Speeding.

Lawyer McDonough said that Gagner has a four-cylinder Buick and he then ridiculed Kilbourne's statement that the auto had attained a speed of fifty miles an hour when it hit the gates. "Not a bit," Kilbourne replied when the lawyer asked him if he was willing to reduce the speed of the auto any. "Jimmie" Desmond also saw the crash and shouted a warning before Gagner's car hit the gates. While he would not judge the speed of the car Desmond said he has often ridden faster himself. He thought Gagner had the car under control after hitting the first gate for he steered into the front part of the second gate. His statements all favored Gagner and he declared that there were no lights on the gates.

No Lights on Gate.

Councilman Thomas Coyle was with Desmond on the night of the accident and he also declared that the railroad gates were equipped with but one light, that one on the southeast gate. There were no lanterns on the other gates, he testified. He sees cars going just as fast as Gagner's was every day. He then gave a neat little speech in favor of Mr. Gagner. Councilman Coyle said he was influenced to look for lights on the gates by his serving in the council and being identified with the arguments for the better protection of grade crossings.

Daniel Lindberg saw the Gagner machine go through the gates. So did Carl Roberg, but neither of them furnished any additional evidence.

Gatekeeper Kilbourne was recalled to the stand and said that a city electric light is only a short distance from the gates, located in front of the United Cigar store. "Why don't you ask him about the lights on the gates," queried Lawyer McDonough of the prosecutor.

"Well, Mr. McDonough, will you let me conduct my own case?" flared up Judge Andrew.

Tender Sure of Lanterns.

The gatekeeper then asserted that he was pretty sure (later he was positive) that there were lanterns on both sides of the crossing. After the accident he took off the lanterns to clear the street of the broken gates. He said that the "hot dog man" saw him take off the lanterns, after the car broke through. He also denied that anyone investigated to see if the lights were there; "they all chased the auto," he said. Under Lawyer McDonough's questioning he said the in-train was a little over a minute late that night. He said he lowered the gates at 11:30 and kept them down for five minutes, with both lanterns on, so everybody could see them. The tender was positive that the lanterns were there, because

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QUIGLEY CONSIDERS HIMSELF VICTORIOUS

Attained His Object of Having Temporary Chairman Elected—Says Healey Fooled Himself.

Mayor George A. Quigley was elated today over what he considers his victory at the meeting of the board of public safety last night when a temporary chairman was elected.

"That was all I wanted," said the mayor. "After the election of a temporary chairman I left the meeting as my object had been accomplished. "Mr. Healey came to the meeting with the intention of assisting Mr. Andrews but he defeated his own purpose by remaining until after a temporary chairman had been chosen. If Mr. Healey had left the meeting before that we would have been unable to conduct any business as there would have been only two commissioners there and, of course, there would have been no quorum. So you see Mr. Healey fooled himself."

Asked if he was considering removing Mr. Healey from the board the mayor answered in the negative. He said he attended the meeting because he feared that if he was not there Clerk Cashmore would not have the backbone to call the commission to order. The mayor complimented Policeman William Hart for using such good judgment when he was called in to quell the tumult.

Asked when the board would meet again Mayor Quigley replied: "In a day or so and then they'll get down to business."

Mayor Quigley stated that he might announce the name of the commissioner to succeed Mr. Andrews today although he would not be certain on that point.

It has been learned that Officer Hart was ordered to report at police headquarters at 7 o'clock and when he arrived there Captain Grace told him to report at the mayor's office at 7:55. The policeman remained in the office until he was summoned to the meeting by Mayor Quigley.

POLICEMAN AND BURGLAR SHOT TO DEATH IN CHICAGO

Alleged Highwayman Mortally Wounded in Battle With Police.

Chicago, Jan. 5.—A policeman and a burglar were shot to death and an alleged highwayman was mortally wounded in two revolver battles the police fought with four robbers caught in an attempted holdup and a burglary here early today.

The dead: John Sausman, policeman. George Hennessey, burglar.

The wounded: "Jack" Dutton, police character.

Dutton and an unidentified negro companion who escaped, shot and killed Sausman as he attempted to arrest them after an attempted holdup. Dutton was shot four times by policemen, who trapped him a few blocks away from the scene of the killing.

Hennessey was shot and killed by Detective Axel Jensen, who found him prying open a store window.

REDUCTION OF COUNCIL. Most Important Item of Business for Charter Revision Committee.

Reduction of the common council will be the main topic of discussion at this evening's meeting of the committee on charter revision. The committee is not thought to be unanimous as to how many members should be in the council. One motion introduced some time ago was that the body be composed of eighteen members, an alderman and two councilmen from each ward. Another motion is that the council be composed of ten members, the two big parties to be represented in comparison to their voting strength.

Edward H. Prior, secretary of the committee, has received word from Arthur M. Marsh, secretary of the City Plan commission of Bridgeport, that he will be pleased to come to New Britain to explain the system used in the Park City. He suggests that any Saturday night would be convenient for him, and he may be invited to come to New Britain next Saturday evening.

O'BRIEN FOR POSTMASTER.

Waterbury, Jan. 5.—Congressman Kennedy today officially announced that his choice for the postmastership of Waterbury is Attorney Edward M. O'Brien, and the latter's name will be forwarded at once to congress. Mr. O'Brien is a law partner of the congressman and is at present clerk of the city court. He is a Georgetown graduate and is 29 years of age, being the youngest man who was in the race and the youngest man who has ever been named for the Waterbury office.

Charles F. Corbin, father of Philip and Minnie Corbin Kohn, was to receive in trust ten parts of \$220,675.10, which, with legacies of \$125,000, makes his share of the estate \$566,350.20.

Mrs. William E. Beers was to receive ten parts also, which, with a bequest of \$50,000, makes her share total \$270,675.10. She also receives the property at the corner of Pearl street and Pearl court.

William E. Beers was to receive one part, or \$22,337.55, and a bequest of \$5,000, making his share \$27,337.55. Francis Corbin Beers was to receive one part also and as she had al-

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FORTUNE DIVIDED; PHILIP CORBIN IS WORTH A MILLION

His Share of Wealth of Founder of American Hardware Corp. Is \$1,057,700.

TRUSTEES PLACE TOTAL VALUE OF \$2,006,161 ON ESTATE

Charles F. Corbin Receives \$566,350, Minnie Corbin Kohn \$228,850 and Mrs. Beers \$270,675, When Judge Gaffney Approves of Trustees' Manner of Distribution at Hearing Today.

Philip Corbin	\$1,057,700.40
Charles F. Corbin	\$566,350.20
Minnie Corbin Kohn	\$228,850.20
Mrs. Nellie E. Beers	\$270,675.10
Francina Corbin Beers	\$2,337.55
William E. Beers	\$27,337.55

Philip Corbin today takes his place as the richest young man in New Britain, his inheritance from the estate of his grandfather, Philip Cor-



PHILIP CORBIN.

bin, founder of the American Hardware corporation, amounting all told to \$1,057,700.40.

The authority to distribute the vast estate of the deceased steel king was given to the trustees today by Judge B. F. Gaffney in the court of probate after they had made their final accounting. The trustees are Sylvester C. Dunham of Hartford, Col. Charles M. Jarvis of Berlin and the Connecticut Trust and Safe Deposit company of Hartford.

Heirs Gather in Court.

The principal heirs of Philip Corbin gathered in the court of probate this morning at 10 o'clock. By noon it was definitely known just how much each was to receive. A hearing was held on a petition of the trustees for an order of distribution. The accounting was rendered and was investigated at length by Judge Gaffney. Those who were present were Philip Corbin, Minnie Corbin Kohn of Hartford, his sister; William E. Beers; J. Lincoln Fenn of Hartford, representing the trust company, and Mr. Kohn, husband of Minnie Corbin Kohn.

Philip Corbin's will states specifically that the distribution of his estate must be made by the trustees and the only question was on the manner of the distribution. Mr. Fenn offered a typewritten statement showing how the fortune was to be distributed if satisfactory to Judge Gaffney. There proved to be no objection.

Dividing Up \$2,000,000.

The statement showed that after all legacies had been paid to Philip Corbin, Charles F. Corbin, Minnie Corbin Kohn and others there was a balance in the estate of \$1,809,535.42. According to the will this was to be divided into eighty-two parts.

Philip Corbin received forty of these parts, equivalent to \$882,700.40. As he had already received \$175,000 as bequests his share of the estate amounts to \$1,057,700.40.

Minnie Corbin Kohn was to receive twenty parts, or \$441,350.20, which, with a bequest of \$87,500, brings her inheritance up to \$528,850.20.

Charles F. Corbin, father of Philip and Minnie Corbin Kohn, was to receive in trust ten parts of \$220,675.10, which, with legacies of \$125,000, makes his share of the estate \$566,350.20.

Mrs. William E. Beers was to receive ten parts also, which, with a bequest of \$50,000, makes her share total \$270,675.10. She also receives the property at the corner of Pearl street and Pearl court.

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SCOTT AND VILLA TO CONFER AT EL PASO

Will Endeavor to Reach Agreement to Stop Further Firing Into American Territory By Mexicans.

Washington, Jan. 5.—Administration officials today awaited with interest the outcome of a conference to be held probably tomorrow on the international bridge at El Paso between Brigadier General Scott, chief of staff of the United States army, and General Villa, commander in chief of the forces of the Gutierrez government in Mexico, the object being to reach an agreement, if possible, to prevent further firing into American territory by Mexican factions fighting along the border.

Both generals Scott and Villa were on their way today to El Paso, the meeting between the two having been arranged by telegraph.

General Scott had been at Naco for the past fortnight in an effort to bring about an agreement between General Maytorena, commanding the Gutierrez force attacking the Mexican town of that name, and General Hill of the Carranza garrison. Although Hill had agreed to withdraw to Agua Prieta, Maytorena has delayed entering into any final agreement, awaiting, it is stated, the arrival there of General Cabral with his force of 8,000 troops to take charge of the situation.

It is understood that the conference with Villa was sought not only on account of the delay at Naco, but in order that if an agreement were reached, it might apply to the entire border line.

KAISER AND ENTOURAGE WILL EAT WAR BREAD

German Emperor Telegraphs Austrian Archduke That Victory Is Certain.

Berlin, Jan. 5, via the Hague and London, 10:20 a. m.—Emperor William, replying to a congratulatory message from Archduke Frederick of Austria, telegraphed as follows:

"My best wishes to your imperial highness and your brave Austro-Hungarian troops, who, in the past year, have shown an unchanging spirit of comradeship toward their German allies. With our combined forces we continue the fight, and with our eyes toward God we will win a decisive success for our just cause will not be wanting."

"WILLIAM."

His majesty the emperor has given orders that the so-called war bread be served to himself and the members of his entourage.

This bread, styled also "K" bread, consists of eight-fifths per cent. of rye flour and fifteen per cent. of potato flakes. It is being consumed in accordance with a war time proclamation with the idea of conserving the supply of foodstuff in the empire. Up to the present time it has not been bought readily by the general public. It is hoped, however, that the decision of the emperor to eat this bread himself will influence the people to follow his example. The newspapers are giving much attention to the course of His Majesty in this connection.

DIRECTORS DISCUSS PLANS. Mercantile Bureau to Have Committee on Trade Conditions.

The directors of the Mercantile bureau of the Chamber of Commerce met at 10 o'clock this morning and discussed trade conditions and ways and means of improving them for two hours. Twelve of the fifteen directors were present and started enthusiastically to work out the problems confronting the merchants.

No definite action was taken, although it was voted that President W. H. Crowell appoint a committee on trade conditions to investigate, and make a report at a future meeting. Preliminary reports were made by the committees on co-operative delivery and on uniform hours and practices on the work done thus far.

The committee on charter revision and home rule legislation met last night and discussed their problems and voted to make a report to the board of directors Friday evening.

A meeting of the committee on charities of the Civic Bureau will be held Thursday afternoon, Jan. 7, at 4:45 o'clock and a meeting of the directors of the chamber will be held Friday evening at 8 o'clock.

PAST MASTER GETS JEWEL.

Harmony Lodge, A. F. & A. M., Installs Officers.

Retiring Worshipful Master E. J. Munson installed the new officers of Harmony lodge, A. F. & A. M., last night. Porter A. Norton was grand marshal. After the ceremonies of the installation, Secretary William H. Rawlings presented a past master's jewel to Mr. Munson. Light refreshments were served at the close of the meeting.

The following officers were installed: Roderick J. Dixon, W. M.; Louis M. Dyson, S. W.; Charles H. Wigglesworth, J. W.; George H. Boyer, treasurer; William H. Rawlings, secretary; Frank A. Goddard, chaplain; George E. Norton, S. D.; Frank H. Dohrenwend, J. D.; Frank S. Goodrich, S. S.; John Hill, J. S.; El Haslam, Tyler; James McArthur, organist.

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